Who is God

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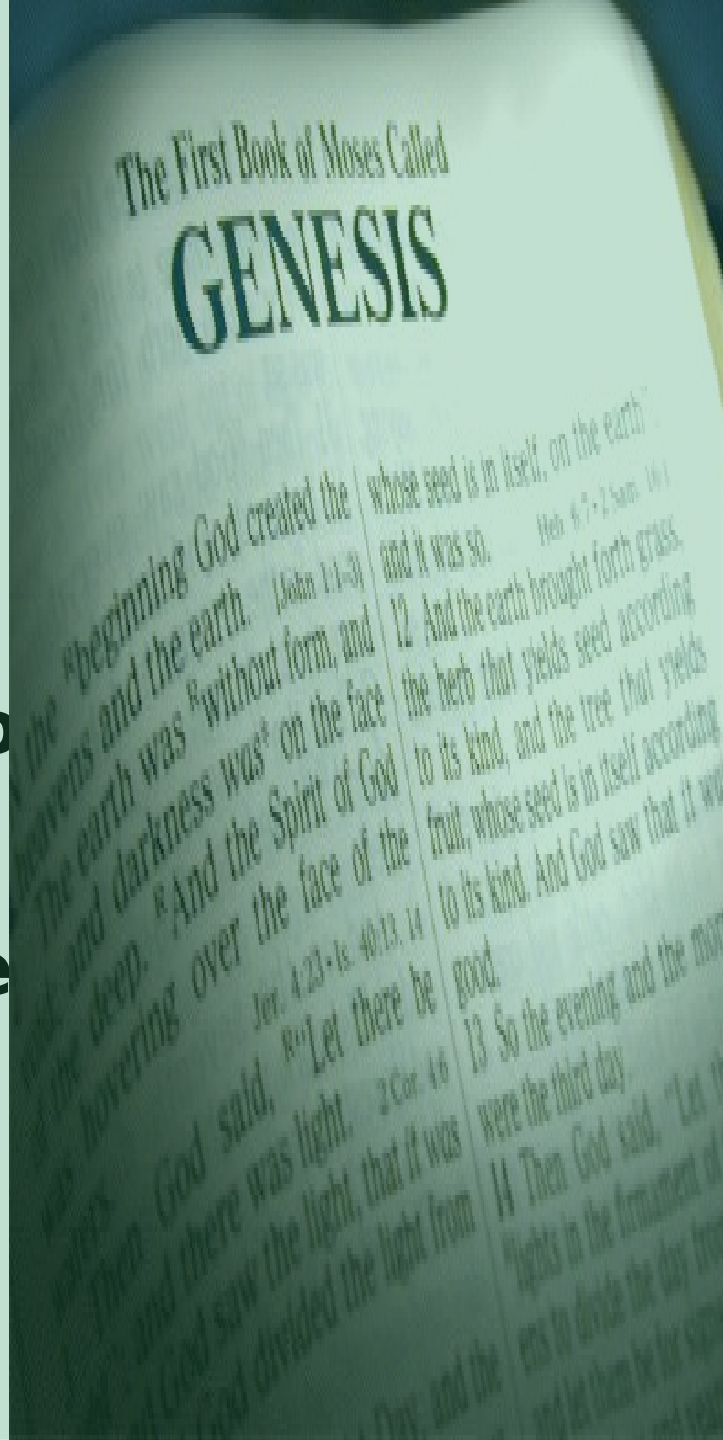
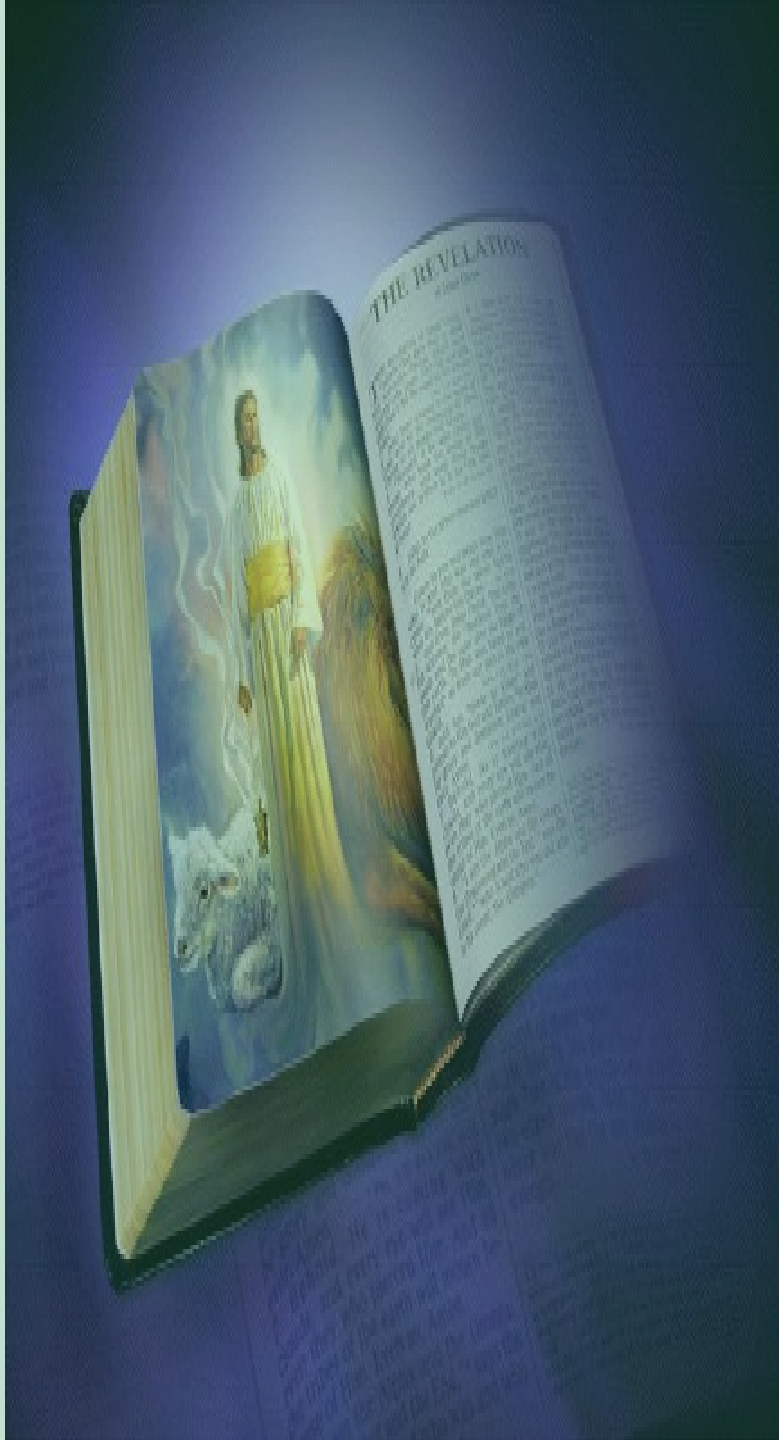
Genesis 1:1-2

- **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering upon the face of the waters**
- **'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth', says the Bible** (Gen 1:1 niv). **This tells us that the universe did not always exist: it had a beginning. And that is interesting, because in times past many scientists used to believe that the universe always existed. Some still do; but most think nowadays that the universe must have had a beginning**

- **WHY GENESIS ?**
- **The book of origins – meaning of title**
- **The word genesis comes from the Hebrew word ‘*bereshit*’ meaning the beginning Its Hebrew name is the same as its first word, Bereshit ("In the beginning").**
- **The English title of the name genesis also is Greek in origin and it comes from the word ‘*geneseos*’. According to Greek translation and depending on context the word can mean *Birth, Genealogy or History of Origin* so according to Hebrew and Greek the word Genesis means beginnings therefore genesis is the book of Beginnings**



- **The Book of Genesis, is the first Old Testament book of the Bible** ***.It gives an account of the creation of the world, the early history of humanity, sin and its results, plan of salvation, Israel's ancestors, and the origins of the Jewish people, it is the book of origins and beginnings, everything related to creation of humanity, salvation is clearly pictured out in the book of genesis.***
- **It is the earliest history we have of the earth and of God's relationships to men. As such, it is foundational to our understanding of many major Bible themes. Many events cited elsewhere in Scripture are first mentioned and described in detail in**



- ***If you want something to boggle (confuse, perplex ,overwhelm, baffle) your mind, neither meditate on the concept of the eternal, that which has neither beginning nor ending. As creatures of time, you and I can easily focus on the transient things around us; but it's difficult if not impossible to conceive of that which is eternal. Contemplating the nature and character of the Triune God who always was, always is, and always will be, and who never changes, is a task that overwhelms us. "In the***

- What does this means

✓ **This means this earth came into existence because of God**

✓ **In the beginning God – what does this mean**

✓ **Before anything God (Elohim) was in existence – he existed and was not created when I am talking about God I am talking about the Father , Son and the Holy Spirit**

✓ **This suggests that God is a powerful God in this sense**

✓ **He existed in the beginning**

✓ **Was not approved , recommended to be God nor voted to be God**

• ASPECTS OF THE NATURE OF GOD

• 1 THE WASNESS

- Whenever the bible takes us to the very origin and beginning of the universe , several theological statements are implicitly or explicitly made , one of the most important is that God was ***John 1:1***
- He was before he created this suggests to us that before anything was brought into existence God already was . **This divine wasness means first that God is eternal this means there was never a time when God came into existence** . **If we may ask what was there before the beginning the answer provided by the biblical record is God : This suggests that God is a powerful God in this sense :**

- ✓God is God – needs nothing, he is eternal all-knowing-Omniscient , all powerful-Omnipotent and everywhere , ever-present –Omnipresent (***1 Timothy 6:16 :*** **Psalms 139:1-6 : Matthew 28:18:Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 23:1-6** ***)***
- ✓***No one has ever seen him those who claim I saw him face to face are lying why ? Exodus 33:18-23; 34:6-9***
- ✓What is it that he did to prove that he is all powerful – parted the red sea .
- ❖ **He is infinite and knows no limitation in either time or space , he is perfect and cannot improve and is immutable and he changes not**
- ❖ **He never grows – because if so what makes him to grow is powerful than him because it ,makes him greater but remember there is nothing greater than him**

- **Black preachers of yesterday , in their unique way would say about Yahweh's existence before there was a where , a when or a there or a then "he was"**
- Similarly in speaking of Odomankoma (**one of the Akan names for God**) the African will say , **He has no beginning in time** ,and of course **no beginning in space nor end , he is there always ,was there and ever will be**
- There is no indication from the scriptures to the effect that God was there because something caused him to be
- A proper understanding of this CONCEPT should be based on the conviction that **God is eternal and self-sufficient** HE NEEDS NOTHING FROM HUMAN BEINGS **therefore our purpose for existence can not in anyway enrich him but there is need for us to understand he offers us the opportunity to enter into fellowship with this mysterious God who**

- "*Process theology," an old heresy in modern dress, affirms a "limited god" who is in the process of becoming a "greater" god.*
- *But if God is God, as we understand the word, then He is eternal and needs nothing; and He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present. In order to have a "limited god," you must first redefine the very word "God," because by definition God cannot be defined*
- **But if you have a limited God then you will have to redefine him – our God cannot be defined in human terms because he is not limited** *. If he can be defined then he ceases to be God*

2 GOD IS THE CREATOR

- HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO US IN SCRIPTURES AS THE CREATOR (Gene 1:1) **if we know that at the beginning He was , It is because we were informed that He was** .
- God as the creator is the most fundamental conception we can have of Him . That is creation is that activity of by means of which we define what we mean by the word of God .
- **Indeed it would be impossible for us to talk about the mystery of God that He was apart from the fact that HE is the creator . Our vision of God expands itself when we look at Him as the**

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• ***Incomparable***

- This same creator is Incomparable
- **This means no one is like him in the created universe , he is essentially different from His creation .**
- **He is the eternal , one without beginning , but created beings have a beginning** .
- He is self existent , but created beings have a derived existence that depends upon proper ecological balances : water , sunlight ,oxygen etc.
- **God is absolutely autonomous , but the creatures depend upon Him for subsistence . Creatures are finite ; only God is infinite in himself**
- **Isaiah 46:5** to whom will you compare God with ?
- **Numbers 23:19** says God is not a man that he should lie , neither the son of man that he should repent
- He cannot be compared to our spouses , our children , our certificates nor anything that we can think of

- ***Creator is transcendent***

- **God as the creator means that he transcends the created universe** ; He is not part of it according to Genesis 1 , **God created through his word . Creation through the spoken words points to God as a transcendent being who meditates His creative activity through the word , while he remains outside creation**

- **It is therefore absurd to look for God in the created world . He did not create it out of His essence but through His word . Creation out of nothing denies the validity of pantheism**

- **The created universe is not permeated by the divine . God the creator , cannot be circumscribed (restricted, bounded) by that which he created .** This fact was recognized by Solomon during the dedication of the temple 1 Kings 8:27) during prayer Solom Said " But will God dwell on earth ? . The heavens ,even the highest heaven , cannot contain you.

- ***THE CREATOR IS IMMANENT***

- God as Creator means that he is willing to enter into the created world. Scholars have pointed out that while Genesis 1 testifies to God's transcendence,,
- Genesis 2 testifies to His immanence. In Genesis 2 God is described as present within creation in full interaction with Adam and Eve..
- **God's immanence is indispensable for the preservation of creation**. The preservation of God's creation is directly dependent on His care and concern for it. It is, therefore, indispensable for God to remain within His created world once His creative activity is completed. **Divine rest on the seventh day points precisely to this significant fact, (Genesis 2:2, 3). Now that we gather together in this place we believe that he is amongst us thus this testifies to the fact that God is immanent**

- **Genesis makes it clear that creation belongs to the sphere of space and time. God transcends that sphere**. However,, He chose to enter into that sphere,, into the world He created for His creatures. **He created a fraction of time within which He made Himself available to His creation**. Of course, God remained the Transcendent One. His immanence does not deny His transcendence. **God condescends to enter into His creation, making it clear that He has not abandoned it.**

- ***THE CREATOR IS Owner***

- God as Creator means that He owns the universe and everything in it.. He is Lord over it and assigns specific tasks to each element of creation (e.g. Genesis 1::14,, 26,, 29;; 2::15,, 16).. God's ownership of the world is based on His creative activity.. The Psalmist wrote: "*The earth is the LORD''S, and the fullness thereof; the world,, and they that dwell therein.. For he hath founded it upon the seas,, and established it upon the floods,*" (**Psa 24::1,, 2** KJV).
- God declares, "*For every beast of the forest is mine,, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.. II know all the fowls of th mountains:: and the wild beasts off the field are mine,*" (**Ps 50::10,, 11** KJV).
- God is not only Owner of the material content of this world and of the living beings who populate it, but His ownership is cosmic: "*The heavens are thine,, the earth also is thine:: as for the world and the fullness thereof,, thou hast founded them*" (**Psa 89::11 KJV**).. The Psalmist knows that the "universe is in Yahweh's hands.. To him as the ruler does the world belong.

3 god is Love

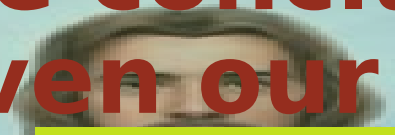
- Love seems to be used in the bible to define or to describe the essence of God . **1 John 4:7** clearly articulates that God is love . This is one of the most important descriptions of the nature of God in scripture .
- This statement was made by the apostle in the context of Christ's sacrificial death .
- God's love is self giving , and totally and absolutely unselfish (**John 3:16**) there is nothing outside God that could move or force him to love . In fact there is no need for any external motivation , because it is God's nature to love
- **This love is neither based on a felt need in the loving person nor on a desire called forth by some attractive feature in the loved one .God does not love because a sermon has been preached about love or has read a certain article about love** .
- No wonder Paul says " *God demonstrates his own love for us in this : while we were yet sinners , Christ died for us* (**Romans 5:8**)

- **V 2 and the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering upon the face of the waters**
- **Hebrew words that expresses the whole impression of void and formless are תֹהוּ ובהו (tohû and, vābohû),**
- **These words are both substantives, and signify wasteness and emptiness. If we may distinguish these two words, בהו bohû refers to the matter, and תהו tohû refers to the form, and therefore the phrase linking the two signifies a state of absolute confusion and desolation, an absence of all**

- When first called into existence, the earth was without form and void this further expresses the notion of confusion and emptiness, as the same original words are rendered, Isaiah 34:11.
- It was without order, beauty, or even use, in its present state, and was surrounded on all sides with thick darkness, through the gloom of which there was not one ray of light to penetrate not even so much as to render the darkness visible.
- Life that is not embedded in God is bohu, tohu void and formless, has no direction has no beginning and has no ending it is just useless .it consist of confusion and emptiness and is without order, beauty and taste. It is always and

- In like manner the work of grace in the soul is to form a new creation: and in a graceless soul, one that is not born again, for there is disorder, confusion, and every evil work in a life that has not been visited by the grace of God it is empty of all good, for it is without God; it is dark, it is darkness itself: this is our condition by nature, till God's grace locate, work and change us.
- When we consider the earth without form and void, this suggest that; it is like the valley full of dead and dry bones. Can these live? Can this confused mass of matter be formed into a beautiful world? Ezekiel 37:15 Yes, if a spirit of life from God enter into it.

- Of interest to note is the fact that God was not yet finished yes it was void, yes it was formless, but God was not yet finished. God's work in the soul is to create a new life that is of use, that has no confusion or darkness therefore it is of paramount importance to submit to the authority of God so that one will be recreated and be made after the similitude of God through Christ by faith Psalms 51:10 create in me oh lord
- It is only through Christ that a new creation is made, therefore learn hence, That God is not only the author of all being, but the fountain of life and spring of motion. Dead matter would be forever dead if he does not quicken it. And this makes it trustworthy to us that God should raise the dead. That power which brought such a world as this out of confusion, emptiness, and darkness, at the beginning of time, can, at the end of



This brings us to the conclusion that neither the universe, nor even our earth, belongs to us: they are God's. 'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it' (Ps 24:1). We are simply tenants of God's earth: we do not own it. We must therefore find out from the Bible and respect the conditions that God has laid down for our tenancy. The whole creation, including humanity, was made to serve God's pleasure and to do his will (Rev 4:11). So the way to decide if humans are living as they should is to ask 'How well is each person fulfilling God's will?'

Know. what does this means ?

- To know doesn’t simply mean to know a fact , particularly when a person is involved . It means to have a meaningful relationship with the one known
- **Thus to know the lord means to be in the <u>right relationship with Him</u> this consists of – <u>serving or to serve Him</u> (*1Chro 28:9*), <u>to fear him</u> (*Isa 11:2*), <u>to believe Him</u> (*Isa 43:10*), <u>to trust Him and seek Him</u> (*Ps 9:10*), and <u>to call on his name</u> (*Jer 10:25*)**
- The Hebrew understanding of knowledge includes **<u>intellectual , relational and emotional aspects</u>**

- That I may know him as the creator who owns everything he is lord over everything and he assigns specific tasks to the elements of creation that I may know him he is the owner ; his ownership of the world is based on his creative activity as David declares the world belongs to him
- That I may know him God as the creator is in comparable , his uniqueness identifies him as the only one who to whom we are accountable to .
- He is eternal one without a beginning , but created beings have a beginning , he is self existent , but created beings have a derived existence that depends upon proper ecological balances ; water , sunlight , oxygen etc. God is absolutely autonomous , but creatures depend upon him for their subsistence .
- That I may know him God's transcendence is a rejection of any attempt to base our practice of Christianity on pantheistic ideas this means that since God is above everything we need to know that we cannot compare him with anything ; and there is no extension in this natural world but the existence was due to

- **His immanence (his presence)testifies that all creation is in constant need of him and his care in order to function harmoniously**
- His ownership as a creator should remind us constantly of the limits of our function in the world . It is this aspect that defines , perhaps better than any other , the nature of a CHRISTIAN . He or she is never the owner , but the

- **JOHN 17:3** Says "*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent*".
- ' ***In him*** **there is life eternal but this doesn't come on silver plate there is need to know who he is the question is do you know him our knowledge of him informs our daily living and every aspect of our life whether eating , drinking , dressing**
- PAUL IN **GALATIANS 6:14** ***But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world***
- Some trust in their certificates , some in children some in chariots , some in horse but far , but God forbid that I should glory in anything save in the cross of Jesus
- FINALLY **JEREMIAH 9:23-24** *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches , But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD*.

Conclusion

- As one continues to submit to the authority of God life gets direction and the *Holy Spirit keeps on working a change in one's life and as a result salvation is possible.* Therefore I call upon humanity to submit to God of Genesis the creator of the universe, the eternal God, one who was and who is to come. Submit to God the creator of the universe and your life will be worth a living. God bless you